WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a user device, a method of rendering text on an output device, the user device including an image file defining an image of a custom character set, the user device having stored thereon associated character information, the associated character information including at least one character width for said custom character set, the method comprising the steps of:

locating a selected character from said custom character set within said image based upon said associated character information;

defining a portion of said image containing said selected character; and

rendering said portion on the output device.

2. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of defining includes defining a subimage within said image, said subimage having a width corresponding to said at least one character width.

3. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of defining includes creating a definition and passing said definition to a graphics subsystem, and wherein said graphics subsystem performs said step of rendering.

4. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said associated character information includes a character order, and said step of locating includes identifying the location in said image of said selected character based upon said at least one character width and said character order.

5. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said image file comprises a bitmapped image file.

6. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said output device comprises a display, and said step of rendering includes rendering said portion on said display.

7. The method claimed in claim 1, further including steps of developing said custom character set off-line and creating and storing said image file on said user device.

8. A user device, comprising:

an output device;

a graphics subsystem for rendering graphics upon said output device;

memory, said memory having stored thereon an image file defining an image of a custom character set and associated character information, said associated character information including at least one character width for said custom character set; and

a custom font module for locating a selected character from said custom character set within said image file based upon said associated character information, and defining a portion of said image containing said selected character,

wherein said graphics subsystems renders said portion on said output device.

9. The device claimed in claim 8, wherein said custom font module includes a component for passing a definition to said graphics subsystem, said definition defining said portion.

10. The device claimed in claim 8, wherein said portion includes a subimage within said image, said subimage having a width corresponding to said at least one character width.

11. The device claimed in claim 8, wherein said custom font module executes within said graphics subsystem.

12. The device claimed in claim 8, wherein said associated character information includes a character order and said custom font module identifies the location in said image of said selected character based upon said at least one character width and said character order.

13. The device claimed in claim 8, wherein said image file comprises a bitmapped image file.

14. The device claimed in claim 8, wherein said output device comprises a display.

15. A computer program product having a computer-readable medium tangibly embodying computer executable instructions for rendering text on an output device in a user device, the user device including an image file defining an image of a custom character set, the user device having stored thereon associated character information, the associated character information including at least one character width for said custom character set, the user device having a graphics subsystem for rendering images on the output device, the computer executable instructions comprising:

computer executable instructions for locating a selected character from said custom character set within said image based upon said associated character information; and

computer executable instructions for defining a portion of said image containing said selected character,

wherein said graphics subsystem renders said portion on the output device.

16. The computer program product claimed in claim 15, wherein said computer executable instructions for defining include said computer executable instructions for defining a subimage within said image; said subimage having a width corresponding to said at least one character width.

17. The computer program product claimed in claim 15, wherein said computer executable instructions for defining include said computer executable instructions for creating a definition and passing said definition to said graphics subsystem.

18. The computer program product claimed in claim 15, wherein said associated character information includes a character order, and said computer executable instructions for locating include said computer executable instructions for identifying the location in said image of said selected character based upon said at least one character width and said character order.

19. The computer program product claimed in claim 15, wherein said

image file comprises a bitmapped image file.

20. The computer program product claimed in claim 15, wherein said output device comprises a display, and said step of rendering includes rendering said portion on said display

21. A mobile device, comprising:

a display screen;

a graphics subsystem coupled to said display screen for rendering graphics upon said display screen;

a memory, said memory containing an image file defining an image, said image including a custom character set, said memory further containing associated character information, said associated character information including character order information and at least one character width for said custom character set;

a custom font module for locating a portion of said image containing a selected character from said custom character set within said image file based upon said associated character information, and producing a definition defining said portion of said image containing said selected character,

wherein said graphics subsystem receives said definition and renders said portion on said display screen.

22. The mobile device claimed in claim 21, wherein said mobile device comprises a handheld mobile device.

23. The mobile device claimed in claim 21, wherein said image file includes a file having a standard image format.

24. The mobile device claimed in claim 21, wherein said custom character set includes a plurality of glyphs comprising a font.

25. The mobile device claimed in claim 24, wherein said selected character includes two or more adjacent glyphs.